TALES FROM BOCCACCIO. Done into English by Joseph Jacobs. Illustrated by Byam Shaw. Octavo. pp. xiii, 117. Truslove, Hanson & Comba, Limited.

THE LIFE AND DEATH OF MR. BADMAN. Presented to the World in a Familiar Dialogue by sented to the World in a Familiar Dialogue by Mr. Wiseman and Mr. Attentive. By John Runyan. With Twelve Compositions by George Woolliscroft Rhead and Louis Rhead. Designed to Portray the Dreadful Sins of the Ungodiy. Mr. Badman's Journey from This World to Hell. With an Introduction Reprinted from the Life of Bunyan, by J. A. Froude. Polio, pp. xix, 144. R. H. Russell.

THE THREE MUSKETEERS. By Alexandre Dumas. Illustrated Holiday Edition. In Two Volumes. Octavo, pp. xx, 428; vi, 418. Boston: Little, Brown & Co.

THE NOVELS AND STORIES OF FRANK R. STOCKTON. Shenandoah Edition. In Eighteen Volumes. Volumes I and II, The Late Mrs. Null-The Squirrel Inn and the Merry Chanter. Octavo, pp viii, 401; vii, 375. Charles Scribner's por. The Story of Our Mocking Bird. By Sidney Lonier. With Sixteen Hiustrations in Color. Oc-tavo, pp. 71. Charles Scribner's Sons.

Boccaccio would seem to most of us to be hardly a name to conjure with at this time of yea, but, as the introduction by Mr. Jacobs to his translation of four of the tales clearly demonstrates, there is no reason why as many as fourscore of the narratives in the "Decamerone" should not be made acceptable to the general reader. They are masterpieces in the delineation of human nature and they are eminent works of literary art. "Griselda," "Saladin

and Torello," "Sir Federigo's Hawk" and "Isathe selections given by Mr. Jacobs, are four of the best short tales in literature. The translator's method has been to preserve the grebale flavor where it is essential, but to give, on the whole, as colloquial an equivalent as possible for the original text. He has not quite the naturalness of his master, but he is smooth. vivacious and sufficiently picturesque. For every page Mr. Shaw has devised an effective border in black and white, and he has also drawn a number of full page illustrations, striking in invention and well executed. At first blush, as we have hinted before, it would seem impossible to make a holiday book out of the racy Italian novelist, but Mr. Jacobs has proved that it can be done without violence to

Boccaccio, and in a way to please not only young

readers, but their watchful elders.

When the original drawings by the brothers Rhead, in illustration of "The Life and Death of Mr. Badman," were exhibited in this city they left a favorable impression, which is deepened by the reproductions now published in book form. The task for the artists was a difficult one. Every theme they took up was necessarily forbidding, and, working in line, they had to make their designs even more explicit than might have been the case if the subjects had been treated with the brush, which would have permitted broader lights and shadows and more mystery. Yet Bunyan is explicit and literal in the last degree, despite his allegorical meaning, and these illustrations are wonderfully effective in the bold pictorial accompaniment which they provide for his text. Both the brothers Rhead have imagination, and it plays its part well in their work. Take, for example, the picture of "Stealing," in which is shown a quaint old English room, lighted partly by the crescent moon that shows through the latticed window, and still more effectively by a sinister luminosity emanating from a gigantic figure of the Evil One, who stands over a table displaying money just abstracted from the cupboard behind him. The tempter grimly watches his victim, a man of weak countenance, who comes stealthily into the room, with one hand outstretched toward the gold, but with his head turned watchfully toward the door through which he has just entered the room. The whole spirit of this design is quietly impressive. The blending of terror and cupidity in the man is subtly expressed, and the tension of the little drama is heightened by the stillness which we sel in the room. The "Stealing" is far and way the best design in the book for simplicity, dignity and strength, but all of the designs disclose thought and invention. All, moreover, illustrate good technique. The book has been most luxuriously printed by the Constables, of Edinburgh, and puts, indeed, this minor production of Bunyan's into quite unexceptionable form. How far it will be appreciated by the general public remains to be seen. As Froude observes, the life of Mr. Badman is a didactic tale "describing the career of a vulgar, middleclass, unprincipled scoundrel." Such a work is hardly a source of pleasure to the reader, particularly when, despite its realistic power, it lacks the transfiguring touch of genius which we get in the "Pilgrim's Progress." However, the student of Bunyan must make acquaintance with this work, and for this purpose there is no

edition so desirable as this one. The translation of "The Three Musketeers," of which Little, Brown & Co. publish an illustrated holiday edition, was first copyrighted by them in 1888. We suppose they have been print ing the book again and again ever since that date, and we hope they will go on reprinting it for years to come. The translation is a good one, and the illustrations are artistic; they are chiefly portraits, but there are some compositions illustrating significant episodes. The press work is good, and the books are very attractive in their red binding, with bold decofations in gold. An introductory note dwells tpon the perennial fascination of Dumas's great kok. It strikes a sympathetic note, but the reader will scarcely dwell upon it, for once "The Three Musketeers" is taken up there is nothing to do but plunge into the text and stay there until the end is reached.

Mr. Stockton was born in 1834. He has been writing for many years. "Rudder Grange" was published twenty years ago. It is therefore time for his works to be included in that series of uniform editions in which the Scribners have already included Stevenson, Barrie and Kipling. The Shenandoah edition of Mr. Stockton's novels and stories is to run to eighteen volumes, which shows how prolific he has been. The preface by Mr. Stockton himself, which appears in the first volume, contains some interesting passages. He says:

I have always been very much at home with my books; I have lived in most of the scenes they represent, and in a general way I know what my characters look like. The reason of this to be seen to be seen that the seen that the my characters look like. The reason of that when I make my people say things and set things. I like to see them as they speak and act. Their images must be before me, and the more real they are the better. Therefore, it often happens that after I have planned a character I lost plance with which I can clothe his fictitious exriences; then, whenever that man appears in story I know the fashion in which his clothes cut and the manner in which he wears his But, although I like to draw from models in life the story for om life, these models generally sit only for untenance and clothes, and have nothing to with the moral bias and intellectual activity the herosacci

of with the moral bias and intellectual activity of the heroes and heroines I construct.

If I had never seen Mrs. Lecks and Mrs. Aleshine, I do not believe I could have given literary life to those dear old ladies. But if they were now here with us and should read about their adventures, I think they might be interested, but I am sure they would never imagine they had anything to do with the story. If the criginal of Pomona should be told that she appeared in one of my stories I know that she Peared in one of my stories I know that she would be greatly pleased, and that she would ly set her fancy to work to array he in costly and well fitting robes; to put upon her head a hat with waving plumes or clusters of richly colored flowers; to squeeze her feet into a pair of new shoes two sizes too small for aer; and then, with a fan in one hand and a bouquet in the other, would proudly take her place as the most beautiful and high born lady in all the pages of all my books. As for any associathe pages of all my books. As for any association tion between herself and a girl on a canalboat, the would not think of such a thing, even if she were willing to occupy her time in reading about the performances of the low born and homespun people who play their parts in "Rudder Grange."

Touching upon the name borne by this new

edition, Mr. Stockton explains that, as the volumes were beginning to form themselves into a company, he made for himself a new home in the valley of the Shenandoah. "So," he says, "as the new manner of life of the books and the new manner of life of their author began together, it was determined to call this uniform series the 'Shenandoah Edition.' " We may add that the question of chronology has not been considered in the preparation of the edition. "The Late Mrs. Null," which fills the first volume, was published in 1886. "The Squirrel Inn" and "The Merry Chanter," included in the second volume, came out respectively in 1891 and 1890. Possibly some readers would have preferred the first volume to be devoted to the author's best book, "Rudder Grange," but this is, after all, a matter of small importance. The main point is that all of Mr. Stockton's stories, which have hitherto existed in books of all shapes and sizes, will now be placed upon the shelves in harmonious array, rejoicing in beautiful paper and type, and in an exquisite green binding of the same sort that was given to the edition of Mr. Barrie. Some of the books will very rarely be taken from the shelf. There have

them especially "The Lady or the Tiger?" and The mocking bird commemorated in the brief narrative by the late Sioney Lanier, of which the Scribners publish a holiday edition, was a personality. The author never tired of watching his motions. Neither did he tire of studying the traits in his little friend which seemed to speak of an intelligent and chivalrous nature. "Bob" was a bright little bird, and he is very levable in Lanier's text. For the edition under review some notable illustrations were made by Mr. R. Dugmore. This gentleman made photographic studies from a number of young mocking birds; the photographs were then colored, and the plates from them have been printed in colors in this book. They are surprisingly lifelike. The book is attractive all through, but nowhere more so than in its colored cover.

CHILDREN'S BOOKS.

TALES OF ROMANCE AND ADVENTURE. It is not often that the reviewer finds among the publications of holiday time a boy's book which deserves to be a classic, but sometimes that pleasant thing happens. It has happened now. We do not doubt that Mr. Hamlin Garland's "Boy Life on the Prairie" (The Macmillan Company) will take its place on the shelf with the few books which many generations of American boys will cherish with unwavering delight. Many an Old Boy, too, as he turns its pages, will be beguiled to read to the end, for here is a record of the sort of outdoor life which holds a perennial charm for every age. It is a work of fiction, and therefore has the variety, the surprises, the peculiar interest, of a novel. But it is a work of observation, too, and presents a picture at once a picture and an impression-a picture of life on the prairie which we feel is true to nature, and is the better for being seen through Mr. Garland's eyes. He says in his preface: "I ploughed and sowed, bound grain on a station, herded cattle, speared fish, hunted prairie chickens and killed rattlesnakes quite in the manner here set down." The book is as faithful, he says, as his memory and literary skill can make it. He might have added among his qualifications a lively sympathy, a fervor of feeling for all the characteristics of prairie life which makes his narrative meet for entertainment as well as for instruction. We see in this book the prairie world in little, a world of hard work but of many pleasant experiences, a world full of healthy action, picturesqueness and unaffected humanity. Every page of these recollections has its own fascination-every prose page, we ought to say, for the verses which are interspersed among the chapters are only intruders and blemishes. We hope to see them omitted from future editions of a volume which is otherwise a literary performance of rare ex-

A. Stokes Company) Mr. George Bird Grinnel also deals with a boy's experiences in the West. The author tells us that the incidents described are only the everyday happenings on a cow and horse ranch of the great Central Plateau in the days when the cattle business was at its best | very little ones. It is pretty and highly improvand before the extermination of the buffalo ing. and the wild Indian. All these incidents are more or less lively and entertaining, and the young hero will probably seem to the readers of his own age a very enviable fellow. Another writer on the West, Colonel Henry Inman, has brought out in "The Delahoydes" (Crane & Co.) a story of boy life on the old Santa Fé trail. The characters, the author declares, are all drawn from life, and the incidents of the plot are actual experiences. The book is full of exciting episodes. Another transcript from real life is the parrative derived by Mr. Russell Doubleday from the hero of "Cattle Ranch to College" (Doubleday & McClure Company). Everything we have been accustomed to associate with the hardy youth of the Far West may be found therein-mining, sheep herding, cattle ranching, Indian fighting, and, above all, hunting. The hero is a manly boy, whose career is full of lessons of courage endurance and moral purpose. A story which recalls the fiction of a former day is Colonel H. R. Gordon's "Osceola, Chief of the Seminoles" (E. P. Dutton & Co.). That picturesque Indian figure never loses its interest for boyish readers, and this tale, in which he is one of the three leading characters, is one of stirring danger and suspense. In "Iron Heart, War Chief of the Iroquois" (Henry T. Coates & Co.) Mr. Edward Ellis tells a story of the entertaining kind made up of good Indians, bad Indians and brave little boys. Cold shudders may be found in some of its episodes, and to the youthful frame those are ever agreeable.

In "Jack, the Young Ranchman" (Frederick

Mr. G. A. Henty has never written a more startling, absorbing and ingenious story than "A Roving Commission; or, Through the Black Insurrection at Hayti" (Charles Scribner's Sons). It would be hard to put together a more varied and unceasing series of gallant deeds and hairbreadth escapes. Perhaps the youthful hero who skips rapidly from one brave rescue and capture to another is a little too brave and wise to be true, but, all the same, he is excessively interesting. Another new volume by Mr. Henty is entitled "No Surrender" (Charles Scribner's Sons). The scene is laid in La Vendée during the rising which ended in almost depopulating the region and costing the forces of the republic a hundred thousand men. The period, of course, offers the novelist no end of tragic incident, and Mr. Henty has certainly improved his opportunities. A third book bearing his name on the title page is an edition of "The Brahmin's Treasure," published by the J. B. Lippincott Company. It is one of the most effective versions of the oft told story of the gems stolen from an Indian temple and the worshipper's search for them in alien lands. Mr. Henty appears also as the editor of a volume of "Yule-Tide Yarns" (Longmans, Green & Co.), one of whose list of ten stories is written by himself. All are vivid and dramatic tales. In "Ready-made Romance" (Adam & Charles Black) Mr. Ascott R. Hope has made a number of very interesting abstracts of rare and little known narratives of real or partly real adventure. These true stories are not a whit behind the current works of fiction in dangerous situations and fortunate escapes. A well sustained historical romance is

Spanish, has been dealt with unpleasantly by the Inquisition, and who in later years joins Drake in his expeditions, and has many terrible experiences. There is much artistic verisimilitude in this tale.

Miss Molly Elliot Seawell's story of "Gavin Hamilton" (Harper & Bros.) is told with much animation. It is serio-comic in vein, and presents a queer picture of Frederick the Great. Maria Theresa also appears in the book, which has its reason for being in the war between Austria and Prussia. A group of poetic but rather sentimental stories of Revolutionary France are to be found in Marguerite Bouvet's "Tales of an Old Chateau" (A. C. McClurg & Co.). Nearly all of them are said to be based on real incidents. A volume of "True Stories of Heroic Lives" (Funk & Wagnalls Company) is full of suggestion for young enthusiasts. Here are stories, old and new, of noble deeds, of courage unstained and devotion unquestioning, and statesmen and reformers are commemorated as well as soldiers and sailors. A collection of historical stories dealing with famous personages. but drawn from English romantic literature, has taken most attractive form in "The Prince's Story Book" (Longmans, Green & Co.), edited been times when Mr. Stockton's invention has by Mr. George Laurence Gomme. It is pleasant flagged, and when he has spread a very small idea over a great many pages. But some of to see how many of these spirited sketches have the books bear well the test of rereading, among been drawn from the pages of Walter Scott, and it is to be hoped that these will lead young people to that fountain head of fascinating romance one too sadly neglected in these days. A story mostly fictitious, yet sufficiently founded on fact to delight an ambitious young reader, is Mr. Hezeklah Butterworth's "The Treasure Ship" (D. Appleton & Co.). Its hero is Sir William Phipps, that fortunate being who when a poor boy found a treasure ship and afterward became a Knight and a Governor of New-England. As the author points out, the book is in some sort a lesson in character building, and it is an interesting tale and a careful bit of history as well. In "The Story of Magellan" (D. Appleton & Co.) Mr. Butterworth has arranged in agreeable form some paraphrases from the accounts of the discoverer's voyages and experiences among savage peoples. "Plantation Pageants" (Houghton, Mifflin &

Co.) is not a title which fits Mr. Joel Chandler Harris's new book of stories very well-but the stories themselves are admirable. Child character, darky character, animal character are revealed and interpreted to the reader in ways that touch and delight. "The White Beaver" (Henry T. Coates & Co.), by Harry Castlemon. is a story of the North Woods, whose most prominent features are a white beaver-whose skin is worth \$100-one wild turkey, an unscrupulous thief and an unpleasant old man. A group of moral boys and a pair of treacherous ones combine with these elements to constitute a piquant whole. "At the Siege of Havana" (A. L. Burt) is the title of a volume wherein Mr. James Otis uses the English expedition of 1762 against Havana as the foundation of a story of fighting, mutiny and tropical hardship. The young heroes of the tale are Americans, members of the Connecticut regiment which Lieutenant Colonel Putnam led to the assistance of Lord Albemarle. In "The Boys of Scrooby" (Houghton, Mifflin & Co.) Miss Ruth Hall deals with the earliest days of New-England history, beginning, indeed, with the flight from England to Holland of John Robinson and his congregation. The adventures and sufferings of the three young Chisholm brothers give a picturesque movement to the story, and young readers will probably not be conscious of the fact that its tone, atmosphere and diction are altogether too modern for the period in

Mr. Frank R. Stockton's story, "The Young Master of Hyson Hall" (J. B. Lippincott Company), is a thoroughly revised version of one which originally appeared in a boys' paper under the title of "Philip Bebrkeley; or, The Master's Gun." It describes the woes and final return to happiness of a boy who is left to keep house in the family homestead by his wandering uncle, and whose contentions with a jealous housekeeper, a lawyer and a mortgage holding enemy provide many surprises and excitements. A charming little "story for young people" is Mrs. Edwin Hohler's "The Bravest of Them All" (The Macmillan Company). It is a narrative which emphasizes the righteousness of seeking "honor, not honors," and its lesson is conveyed with much grace and tenderness. Mr. Molesworth's holiday offering this year is "This and That" (The Macmillan Company), a tale of "two tinies" for other "tinies"-that is to say, it is addressed to the

their teens, is Miss R. N. Carey's "My Lady Frivol" (J. B. Lippincott Company). Saucy, foolish, careless, but true and kind in the depths of her nature, little Bonnie, the heroine, proves herself capable of accepting life's teachings in the right spirit, and she has the reward which so many amiable novelists of Miss Carey's sex and literary ideals are apt to put in the last chapter-Bonnie marries a lord. An American book which also chronicles the taming of a winning, undisciplined young creature is Barbara Yechton's "A Young Savage" (Houghton, Mifflin & Co.). Juanita Kyle, the half Irish, half servations while an inmate of a home owned by gentle, courteous and unselfish people. The little savage bends to these sweet influences, and she ends by conquering everybody who has disliked her, including the reader. It is an un-Orne Jewett's books are always welcome, and her delightful description of "Betty Leicester's Christmas" (Houghton, Mifflin & Co.) will warm the cockles of many a girlish heart. Betty is truly a nice child!-so wholesomely old fashioned and bright and well mannered that she is like a refreshing breeze. Contrasted with her is an American girl of the self-conscious and assertive type-would that all girls who read this book could appreciate the difference and see the lovableness of Betty! In "A Pretty Tory" (Houghton, Miffilin & Co.) Jeanie Gould Lincoln has written a spirited story of Revolutionary days in the South. General Francis Marion and that wicked British officer, Colonel Tarleton, are conspicuous characters in the book, and the pretty Tory who is its heroine has to make a difficult choice between that bold Briton and one of Marion's men. In the process of making up her mind she is confronted by many more or less thrilling incidents. Miss Amelia E. Barr tells in "Trinity Bells" (J. F. Taylor & Co.) a tale of old New-York, the plot of which turns upon the rescue from slavery in Algiers of an American sea captain, the father of the heroine. Catharine Van Clyffe herself is a sweet little maid, and her story is well worth

"The Beacon Prize Medals and Other Stories" (The Baker-Taylor Company), by Albert Bigelow Paine, set forth the beauty of courage endurance and helpfulness in the boys and girls of ordinary prosaic lives. The author shows that these high qualities are far from demanding tremendous opportunities for their manifestation. Blanche M. Channing's "Zodiac Stories" (E. P. Dutton & Co.) are twelve in number, each being suggested by one of the signs of the zodiac. They are quaint little stories of the gently instructive kind. Far above the average of juvenilia are Mrs. Mary Hallock Foote's "Little Fig Tree Stories" (Houghton, Mifflin & Co.). Experiences in the West and reminiscences of childhood in the East help to make an unusually readable little book. Mrs. Maud Books and Dublications.

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Chimney Corner" (E. P. Dutton & Co.) are also intended for the youngsters whose literature must be read to them. "The Little Browns" (Charles Scribner's Sons), by Mabel E. Wotton, is a gem of a book, its little dramatis personæ being the oddest, brightest and daintlest little creatures met in Bookland in many a day. The simple story has both humor and pathos. .

In "The Yarn of a Bucko Mate" (Charles Scribner's Sons) Mr. Herbert E. Hamblen has returned to the scenes of his first success, "On Many Seas." The cruelly hard life of the American sailor in the old packet lines is described in the earlier chapters, and described with vigor and verisimilitude. The latter half of the book narrates the startling incidents of a search for buried treasure on a lonely island in the Pacific. The book is full of "thrill," but we doubt that the most admiring reader will bethink himself of emulating the hero's career. Even when his pages are most enchaining Mr. Hamblen manages to inculcate the lesson that law breaking is a game not worth the candle. Another volume in which there is a striking episode of hidden wealth is "The Treasure of Mishroom Rock" (G. P. Putnam's Sons), by Sidford F. Hamp. The finding of gold in a Rocky Mountain valley is however only one of the stirring incidents of this story; it has train wreckers, kidnappers and horse stealers to diversify further the existence of two runaway

The healthy minded boy who learns in school and college athletics lessons of endurance, selfrestraint and "square" dealing will find keen enjoyment in Mr. Ralph H. Barbour's book "The Half Back" (D. Appleton & Co.). It is an admirable story, not in the least goody-goody, yet setting forth in the right light the highest and manliest qualities possible to boy nature. "The Dozen from Lakerim" (The Century Company) is another story of school athletics, conveying much the same lessons. The characters to whom the author, Mr. Rupert Hughes, introduced his readers in a previous book reappear in this, and they are carried through a series of encounters on the athletic field which are calculated to make the hearts of real boys swell with envy. Athletics enter also into Mr. E. T. Tomlinson's "Ward Hill at College" (A. J. Rowland), though they do not form the chief part of the story. It deals in a most forcible, intimate and wholesome way with all the phases of American college life.

"Under the Cactus Flag" (Houghton, Mifflin Spanish heiress of a Montana mine owner, is & Co.) is in reality less a "juvenile" than bstinate, imperious and underbred, but she has a novel for girls in their later teens. It the kindest heart in the world and a clever relates in picturesque fashion the adventbrain, and both are quick to profit by her ob- ures of a charming young American school teacher in New-Mexico. The spirit of the book is one of genuine sweetness and rectitude, and it is enlivened by much humor and many attractive bits of character drawing. Kit" (Little, Brown & Co.) is the title of another commonly entertaining little story. Miss Sarah novel for young people by the author of "Laddie" and "Miss Toosey's Mission." The scene is laid in an English village, and centres in the family of the clergyman, a veritable old Dr. Primrose. The fascinating villain comes, of course, between the honest but blundering hero and the tender hearted little heroine; but poetic justice is done, and the curtain descends upon the triumph of virtue-and upon a very amusing little book. An equally amusing book, but one intended for younger readers, is Julia MacNair Wright's "A Bonnie Boy" (American Tract Soclety). Its little hero is a most delightful. naughty and original child, and his daily doings offer not only entertainment but warning and instruction to his compeers-also to his elders. For the same young readers to whom the small Jack's story is addressed are brought out (by Little, Brown & Co.) some excellent reprints of the German classics "Max and Maurice" and "Plish and Plum." Wilhelm Busch gave way to his wildest spirit of fun in both, but there is a brighter humor and less of horseplay in the latter than in the first. The adventures of those two wicked and lovable dogs Plish and Plum abound in true dog character, and the only thing in which we do not recognize truth is their final readiness to desert their young masters.

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Most persons are aware that to Sir Harry Smith, Governor of the Cape, and to his wife we owe the names of Harrismith in the Free State and Ladysmith in Natal. There are many similar names constructed on the same principles, the most familiar being Durban, properly D'Urban, which was named after Sir Benjamin D'Urban, Governor of the Cape. Less known is Zwellendam, founded in 1740, an odlous compound constructed out of the names of Swellengrebel, a Dutch Governor, and of his wife, Ten Damme. Still worse is Potscherfstrom, in the Transvaal,

still worse is Potschelland to combining syllables a name manufactured by combining syllables from the names of three Boer leaders—Potgleter, Scherf and Stockenstrom. Nearly as bad is Pietermaritaburg, which is named after two Boer commanders. Pieter Retief and Gerrit Maritz. Less objectionable is Pretoria, named Mr. James Barnes's "Drake and His Yeomen"

(The Macmillan Company). It purports to be told by a friend and follower of Francis Drake, one who as a youth, half English and half of the stories, pictures and verses of "In the of the stories, pictures and verses of "In the of the stories, pictures and verses of Johannesburg and Krügers, which explain those of Johannesburg and Krügersdorp.

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